



**MINUTES
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 17, 2021, 6:00 P.M.**

This meeting was conducted under Governor Pritzker's Executive Order 2020-07 §6, which was reissued and extended by Executive Order 2021-05. The Order, implemented in response to COVID-19, suspended in-person attendance under the Open Meeting Act, 5 ILCS 120.

The City Council convened in regular session virtually via Zoom conferencing with the City Manager, Tim Gleason, and City Clerk, Leslie Yocum, in-person in City Hall's Council Chambers at 6:00 p.m., Monday, May 17, 2021. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Mboka Mwilambwe.

Roll Call

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Mboka Mwilambwe	Mayor	Remote	
Jamie Mathy	Council Member, Ward 1	Remote	
Donna Boelen	Council Member, Ward 2	Remote	
Sheila Montney	Council Member, Ward 3	Remote	
Julie Emig	Council Member, Ward 4	Remote	
Nick Becker	Council Member, Ward 5	Remote	
Jennifer Jazmin Carrillo	Council Member, Ward 6	Remote	
Mollie Ward	Council Member, Ward 7	Remote	
Jeff Crabill	Council Member, Ward 8	Remote	
Tom Crumpler	Council Member, Ward 9	Remote	

COVID-19 Update by City Manager

City Manager Gleason discussed the CDC's (Center for Disease Control and Prevention) recent announcement that masks would no longer be required in public spaces and how that change impacted City staff and facilities. He touched on the grand opening of The City Services Hub and reminded Council that City facilities remained open. He informed Council on an Illinois Housing Development Authority grant program that had been created to assist tenants and landlords with up to \$25,000 in rental payment coverage.

Public Comment

Mayor Mwilambwe read a statement of procedure for public comment and then opened the meeting for public comment. Allan Axelrod spoke live. David Heisner's name was read as the only person to email public comment prior to the meeting.

Consent Agenda

Items listed on the Consent Agenda are approved with one motion; Items pulled by Council from the Consent Agenda for discussion are listed and voted on separately.

Council Member Boelen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Ward, that the Consent Agenda, including all items listed below, be approved as presented.

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call the roll, which resulted in the following:

AYES: Mathy, Boelen, Montney, Emig, Becker, Carrillo, Ward, Crabill, Crumpler

Motion carried.

Item 5.A. Consideration and action to approve the Minutes of the March 15, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting, as requested by the City Clerk Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.)

Presentation, Discussion, and Direction on Future Agenda Topics

The following item was presented:

Item 6.A. Presentation of the Bloomington Police Department's 2020 Annual Report, as requested by the Police Department.

City Manager Gleason expressed appreciation for the Bloomington Police Department ("BPD") and introduced Interim Police Chief Greg Scott. Chief Scott reported a slight downward trend of crime statistics in 2020. He discussed each crime category within Part 1 of the Uniform Crime Report ("UCR"). He provided a brief overview and compared the statistics between 2019 and 2020. He then went into detail on each crime category comparing statistics from 2016-2020. He also explained how COVID-19 had impacted crime rates and noted that historically domestic violence incidents increased when individuals remained home together for a prolonged period of time.

Chief Scott went on to report BPD's 2021 departmental goals and discussed how BPD would focus on post-COVID-19 re-engagement with citizens, community groups, and neighborhood associations. He spent time covering each goal in detail and finished by addressing how BPD would continue to expand the departments diversity through the recruitment and hiring process.

Council Member Crabill expressed appreciation for BPD through COVID-19 and complimented the department's goal to create a transparency portal on the City's website. He confirmed that the data presented was based on crime reporting and not convictions. Chief Scott responded affirmatively. Council Member Crabill then asked for additional detail on gathering data for statistics on convictions verses crime reporting and Chief Scott responded accordingly. Council Member Crabill and Chief Scott then discussed programs and ways to combat costs.

City Manager Gleason described various ways staff attempted to stay ahead of the BPD staffing challenges.

Council Member Ward asked for additional specifics on street level shooting statistics and Chief Scott responded accordingly. Council Member Ward and Chief Scott then discussed illegal weapons, violence, gang violence, and programming that BPD utilized to address each area. Council Member Ward asked Chief Scott if he had the resources needed to adequately support partnerships with local community groups and programs. Chief Scott responded that with increased funding, BPD could expand their efforts to reduce violence and promote non-violent resolutions. Council Member Ward asked Chief Scott to prepare a list of needs.

Council Member Emig expressed appreciation for the new transparency website portal. She was concerned with the number of aggravated battery incidents and recommended staff consider partnering with additional organizations, such as mental health workers and social services, to aid residents. She provided an example of the CAHOOTS Program in Eugene, Oregon. She then discussed ideas of areas of improvement that she believed would assist in closing the gap of traffic stops of people of color, as well as reduce the risk of incidents that escalated and caused harm to all parties involved. Chief Scott responded accordingly.

Council Member Boelen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Mathy, to extend the discussion time by ten minutes.

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call the roll, which resulted in the following:

AYES: Mathy, Boelen, Montney, Emig, Becker, Carrillo, Ward, Crabill, Crumpler

Motion carried.

Council Member Carrillo asked Chief Scott to provide more detail on race statistics in future reports and then asked him his opinion of what contributed to racial disparities in traffic stops. Chief Scott responded that racial disparities are not intentional or targeted. He stated that higher crime areas (or hot spots) are often inhabited by minorities and because the increased patrol needed, minority stops are naturally more frequent. He stressed that was why BPD focused on hot spots as indicated by the crime data. Council Member Carrillo and Chief Scott then discussed other communities' initiatives to rely on other forms of data. Council Member Carrillo moved on to discuss social service representatives' involvement with calls received by BPD. Chief Scott was open to the idea of co-respondents partnered with one of his officers.

City Manager Gleason pointed out that BPD's continued work with community outreach programs and schools had the potential to also increase awareness and reduce crime. He then commented to BPD's collective bargaining agreement in that the City was unable to replace union work with a non-union employee. He stressed that there were still many ways to assist.

Council Member Carrillo reiterated her interest in race data and detail on calls received by BPD. She reminded Council and staff to use the term 'resident' verses 'citizen' to include all individuals.

Mayor Mwilambwe requested an additional motion to extend the time.

Council Member Mathy made a motion, seconded by Council Member Carrillo, to extend the discussion time by ten minutes.

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call the roll, which resulted in the following:

AYES: Mathy, Boelen, Montney, Emig, Becker, Carrillo, Ward, Crabill, Crumpler

Motion carried.

Council Member Crumpler commented to the effects of remote learning on youth and appreciated the emphasis on youth outreach by BPD. He expressed support in Council Member Emig's position on investing in additional resources.

Chief Scott reported that BPD's School Resource Officers ("SRO") had spent significant time during COVID-19 visiting students' homes to mitigate issues with school personnel.

Council Member Mathy expressed support in youth programs, stressed their importance, and discussed multiple programs available. He discussed a Council Initiative he had drafted that would fund social service representatives being dispatched with BPD, as well as Bloomington Fire Department when necessary. He discussed potential funding source ideas like using cannabis tax revenue.

Council Member Becker requested that Chief Scott consider the consequences, such as the response time to other calls to service, when stationing officers in hot spots.

Council Member Boelen expressed appreciation for BPD's continued work in the community. She elaborated on some of the programs previously mentioned by Council Member Emig and noted similarities to BPD's current outreach efforts.

Mayor Mwilambwe expressed his appreciation of Chief Scott and all BPD officers. He thanked Chief Scott for his continued willingness and open mind on different approaches to best serve the community.

The following item was presented:

Item 6.B. Presentation of the Bloomington Fire Department's 2020 Annual Report, as requested by the Fire Department.

City Manager Gleason introduced the item and asked Fire Chief Eric West to address Council. Chief West discussed the many operational changes that Bloomington Fire Department ("BFD") had implemented during COVID-19 and stressed the importance of the measures taken. He discussed technology capabilities used throughout the pandemic to aid in calls to service, as well as the many challenges presented. He highlighted BFD's 2020 accomplishments and discussed and gave accolades to Retired Fire Chief Brian Mohr for his work in the Ground Emergency Medical Transport ("GEMT") program and the City's Emergency Operations Center.

Chief West provided detail and updates on multiple 2021 BFD projects and compared incident statistics from 2016-2020. He discussed of challenges and wins experienced throughout the year, as well as improvements the department looked to make in coming years. Chief West then recognized 8 new hires, 7 promotions, and 6 retirements.

City Manager Gleason stated that the presentation had reached the time limit. Mayor Mwilambwe asked for a motion to extend the presentation time.

Council Member Boelen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Crabill, to extend the discussion time by five minutes.

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call the roll, which resulted in the following:

AYES: Mathy, Boelen, Montney, Emig, Becker, Carrillo, Ward, Crabill, Crumpler

Motion carried.

Chief West continued by celebrating the creativity of his staff. He stated that BPD's public interaction was greatly limited by COVID-19, but that his staff had gotten very creative in ways to continue public education and even celebrate members of community. He finished by reporting on trainings and investigations completed by the Department.

Council Member Ward asked for additional detail on District 1A and 1B calls serviced by Fire Station 1, and asked how statistics compared to 2019. Chief West reported that most of the calls were for EMS (Emergency Medical Service) and that the number of calls in 2020 was similar to 2019. She then asked why calls were so high. Chief West speculated that the socio-economic factor likely contributed, but he was unsure of the exact reason. Council Member Ward then asked for data on repeat callers and expressed interest in exploring public-private partnerships with health professionals to facilitate assistance. Chief West discussed a trend of community paramedicine where fire department staff members could follow-up on frequent callers.

Council Member Boelen pointed out that southwest Bloomington did not have a designation on the map that reported the number of calls for service. Chief West stated that the area described fell under 4A and 4B of the map. Council Member Boelen asked for additional detail on an intergovernmental agreement with the Town of Normal for fire and EMS aid. Chief West responded accordingly. She then reminded the public that Normal had taken over the fire and EMS responsibilities for Hudson and Towanda and asked how that impacted BFD. Chief West stated that Normal had only taken over EMS responsibilities for the areas and that BFD would assist in Normal if Normal's units were out on calls.

The following item was presented:

Item 6.C. Review of the American Rescue Plan - COVID Relief Package, as requested by the Finance Department.

City Manager Gleason introduced the item and discussed a decrease from \$13.9 million to \$13.4 million in funds originally allocated to the City from the American Rescue Plan ("ARP") based on Bloomington's lower unemployment rate. He stated that the City had received preliminary guidelines on fund use. He then asked Scott Rathbun, Finance Director, to address Council.

Mr. Rathbun stressed the preliminary status of the guidelines provided and stated that the initial presentation was an introduction. He then explained the ARP for the public sector and highlighted the funding objectives. He provided a breakdown of the \$13.4 million including the expected installment dates of May 2021 and a second installment 12 months later. Mr. Rathbun reminded Council that, due to local Cure's Act funding, City services continued throughout COVID-19. He encouraged Council to think big on the use of funding. And went on to provide multiple examples for use. He suggested open stakeholder discussions, involvement of other municipal agencies, as well as transparency on the decisions for use and expenses. He concluded information on where information and resources could be found.

Mayor Mwilambwe expressed interest in additional information on processes, the timeline, and specific stakeholders involved to ensure execution in the best way possible.

Council Member Boelen stressed the need for education on the needs for funding. Mr. Rathbun agreed and stated that once guidance was provided, staff would present to Council.

Council Member Montney asked for additional information on uses for replacement of public sector revenue loss. Mr. Rathbun provided a few examples of where staff still needed clarification in order to advise Council best. She compared the lost revenue from the tax revenue reports to the first installment of the ARP funds and noted that the first installment only covered lost revenue. Mr. Rathbun stated that additional information and calculations were needed. She then expressed concerns and a fear that funding would only cover lost

revenue not allowing for significant impact in the community. Mr. Rathbun reminded her that \$3.2 million in local Cure funds had also been received last year in addition to the City reducing expenses to offset lost revenue. Council Member Montney supported road infrastructure as a use for funds.

Council Member Emig confirmed with Mr. Rathbun that infrastructure funding was as budgeted and suggested staff and Council reach out to local organizations to better understand their needs. She also suggested using funds to offset utility bills and childcare. City Manager Gleason stated that staff would provide Council with as much data as possible to ensure Council could make informed decisions.

Council Member Boelen suggested partnering with United Way to initiate community discussions. City Manager Gleason stated that there were many resources the City could call on to gain data.

Council Member Becker echoed the importance of understanding the community's needs and suggested a report be put together to track detail of needs, prior allocations, etc.

Mayor Mwilambwe asked City Manager Gleason about next steps and Mr. Gleason stated that staff would provide Council updates via email.

Council Initiatives

i. Discussion regarding a Council Initiative submitted by Council Member Ward to direct City Staff to seek input from representatives of the local disability community and provide City Council with an updated recommendation for an ADA accessibility transition plan, as requested by the City Council.

Mayor Mwilambwe described the procedure for a Council Initiative.

Council Member Ward stated the Initiative was the first of a few Initiatives that had emerged from discussions at previous Council Meetings. She stated that the Initiative would lay out a plan to update the City's Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA") Transition Plan, which had been in draft status since 2015. She explained that while staff had started soliciting stakeholders, the length of the draft status emphasized the need of a deadline.

Council Member Ward made a motion, seconded by Council Member Montney, to have the initiative placed on a future City Council agenda for further consideration or action.

Council Member Mathy, Mayor Mwilambwe, and City Clerk, Leslie Yocum, discussed procedure.

Council Member Mathy expressed concern with specific language in the proposal, but overall was supportive of the Initiative.

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call the roll, which resulted in the following:

AYES: Mathy, Boelen, Montney, Emig, Becker, Carrillo, Ward, Crabill, Crumpler

Motion carried.

Mrs. Yocum clarified that the motion was to place the Initiative on a future agenda.

ii. Discussion regarding a Council Initiative submitted by Council Member Ward to direct City staff to research and develop a Rust Fund resolution as directed, as requested by the City Council.

Council Members Mathy and Emig recused themselves at 8:21 p.m in case their buildings became recipients of the Rust funds.

Council Member Ward stated that the Initiative aimed to increase interest in the use of Rust grants for accessibility improvements. She noted that, historically, there had been minimal use of the grant's funds and hoped the Initiative would generate more applications.

Council Member Ward made a motion, seconded by Council Member Boelen, to have the initiative placed on a future City Council agenda for further consideration or action.

Mayor Mwilambwe directed the Clerk to call the roll, which resulted in the following:

AYES: Boelen, Montney, Becker, Carrillo, Ward, Crabill, Crumpler

RECUSED: Mathy, Emig

Motion carried.

Council Members Mathy and Emig returned to the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

City Manager's Report (5 minutes)

City Manager Gleason highlighted upcoming events in the Downtown area and expressed appreciation of staff for the ribbon cutting at the grand opening of The City Services Hub. He explained that The Hub was represented by multiple City departments and welcomed Council and the community to stop by to check it out. He ended by thanking the Chamber of Commerce for providing the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Mayor Mwilambwe echoed appreciation to the Council Members who attended the ribbon cutting.

Executive Session - Cite Section

No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment

Council Member Boelen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Becker, that the meeting be adjourned.

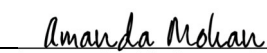
Motion carried (viva voce).

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON


Mboka Mwilambwe, Mayor

ATTEST


Amanda Mohan, Deputy City Clerk

